Actions and Initiatives:

Peat BMP

RSPO Peatland Working Group

Faizal Parish (GEC) and Rosediana Soeharto (IPOC) – Co-chairs PLWG

Peter Lim (TH Plantations) Arina Schrier (WI)
Peatlands cover 25 million ha in Se Asia

Source: Sarvision
Increasing areas oil palm cultivated on peat (2.4 Million ha – 26% Malaysia/73% Indonesia)
Sustainability of oil Palm cultivation on peat

- Challenges
  - Water management
  - Fire prevention
  - Subsidence
  - Agronomy
  - Peat and diseases
  - GHG emissions/Env impacts

- RSPO P&C propose minimization of plantations on fragile soil (including peatlands) as well as adoption of BMP and measures to reduce GHG emissions.

- RSPO General Assembly November 2009 – approved establishment of a Working Group to provide guidance on existing oil palm cultivation on peat
PLWG Members and Meetings

- 20 members from Growers and NGOs and experts
- Six meetings April 2010 to September 2011
- Site visits: Malaysia (Selangor and Sarawak) and Indonesia (Riau)
- Stakeholder workshops, Sarawak, Riau and Kuala Lumpur January – August 2011 (200 participants)
Main Progress/Products

- Review of Environmental and Social Impacts
- Guidance for monitoring of GHG emissions from OPP and BMP on peat
- BMP Manual for OPP on Peat
- BMP manual on rehabilitation and maintenance of natural vegetation associated with OPP on peatlands..
Accumulated subsidence

Figure 6. Yearly average and accumulated peat subsidence in the study area.
Area with no compaction and with shallow planting, result in haphazard leaning of palms.
FFB YIELDS (1998 PLANTING) IN RELATION TO WATER LEVEL IN A PEAT ESTATE IN RIAU, SUMATRA

Water level from peat surface in collection drain (cm)
WATER RETENTION ALONG COLLECTION DRAINS (one stop-off for every 20 cm difference in water level)
Ganoderma Stem Rot

Presently no effective cure
TERMITE CONTROL - *Coptotermes curvignatus*
Management of HCV and Buffer zones

- Essential to maintain a natural or near natural water regime in HCV/buffer areas.
- Maintain connectivity to rivers and streams
- Adequate width for river corridors
- Conserve deep peat/domes to support maintenance of groundwater levels.
- Block abandoned drains and canals
Low level boundary canal leads to forest degradation and fire
High level boundary ditch maintains forest and prevents fire
Recommendations for sustainable low-carbon Plantations

New plantation land:
- Development on mineral soil and non-peat/low carbon degraded land
  - emission reduction 70-80%
  - Reducing net landscape emissions – integrated management of peat basins.

Existing plantations on peat: Introduction of BMP:
- Good water management (= key factor!)
  - drainage depth av. 50 cm (40-60 cm) in field
  - emission reduction > 40%
- Fire prevention and fire control, zero burning
- Compaction, vegetation cover on bare soil
- Reduce inorganic fertilisers
- Enhancing yield/ha

MPOB, Mohammed et al., 2009
Other emission reduction options

- Ground cover maintenance
- Soil compaction before planting
- Minimise inorganic fertiliser use,
- Stop use of fertiliser in rainy periods
- Maintanace of HCVF and buffer zones
Long term drainage impacts – replanting

With current drainage many coastal sites may become undrainable within 25-75 years. Other sites may be underlain with acid-sulphate soils.

Pre-replanting assessment to determine optimal plan possible switch to wet-agroforestry.
Recommendations

- All RSPO members should use the best practice guidance for all existing plantations on peat.
- Changes/improvements in practice should be documented and impacts monitored and reported.
- Good practice demonstration/pilot sites should be designated by members to benchmark standards.
- Further development of oil palm plantations on intact, forested peatlands should be avoided.
Next steps

- Promotion of BMP – training and outreach materials
- Further guidance should be developed for smallholders
- The RSPO PLWG should continue work to support and monitor BMP implementation.
- REQUEST any RSPO members with existing peat areas to contact the group to participate in implementation and monitoring.
Thank you

Livelihood in Sumatera Indonesia